

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

PLANT MATERIALS CENTER
LOS ALAMOS, NM

Planting Guide for Production of New Mexico forestiera (Forestiera neomexicana).

SEED PRODUCTION

1. When grown under ideal conditions, plants will begin producing seed after five to six years. The seed should be collected in the middle to late part of July. The ripe fruit is relished by birds, so they must be watched closely as they begin to mature.
2. The seed can be cleaned by soaking for twenty-four hours, macerating the pulp as with a Dybvig, drying and cleaning the trash from the seed with a seed cleaner.
3. New Mexico forestiera seed is dormant and must be stratified to insure an adequate stand. Seed can be artificially stratified at 2° to 10°C, using clean sterilized sand as a medium for sixty to ninety days. The seed can also be stratified naturally by sowing in January.

PRODUCTION OF SEEDLINGS

1. For best growth plants should be grown in a well-drained sandy loam. The seedbed can be prepared by plowing, disking and firming the surface with a roller or cultipacker.

Fumigation of seedbeds prior to planting is helpful to reduce weed competition and insect or disease problems. **CAUTION:** Be sure to handle and apply fumigants or any other chemicals according to labeled instructions.

2. Artificially stratified seed may be planted after danger of killing frost has passed. Emergence should begin after approximately two weeks. For natural stratification, seed should be planted prior to February 1. Emergence of naturally stratified seed at Los Lunas, N. M. begins in late April.
3. At the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center (PMC) the seed are sown in rows in beds. There are four rows, spaced 20 cm apart, in each bed. The beds are spaced for ease of access and cultivation. Seeding rates will vary according to ultimate use. At the Los Lunas PMC, approximately 300 seed or 5 grams of clean seed per meter, should yield 150 useable plants. Seeding rates this heavy will yield a high percentage of uniform liner stock (10-20 cm tall) after two years. Lower seeding rates would yield larger, less uniform, plants. The seed should be planted 1-1.5 cm deep.
4. The beds should be mulched to prevent excessive drying. An excelsior mulch with net backing is used at the Los Lunas PMC. This enables the mulch to be tacked down to prevent it from blowing. The beds should be sprinkle irrigated to provide uniform coverage. They should be sprinkled only enough to keep the seed zone moist to lessen the possibility of damping off.
5. Seedlings of New Mexico forestiera are not fertilized at the Los Lunas PMC. If fertility is a problem, fertilization should be guided by soil tests.
6. The plants should be dug when dormant, after one or two growing seasons.